

We claim:

1 1. A computer implemented method for automatically generating in a first document a
2 link to at least one other document, comprising:

3 storing in relation to the first document a specification for what other documents to
4 which to link the first document;

5 searching for documents that meet the specification for the other documents to which
6 to link the first document; and

7 automatically generating in the first document a link to at least one of the other
8 documents found that meet the specification.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the searching for documents that meet the
2 specification for the other documents to which to link the first document occurs in response to
3 the creation of at least one of the other documents.

4 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the searching for documents that meet the
5 specification for the other documents to which to link the first document occurs in response to
6 the modification of at least one of the other documents.

7 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the searching for documents that meet the
8 specification for the other documents to which to link the first document occurs in response to
9 moving at least one of the other documents from a first location to a second location.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the specification includes a location in a file structure
2 where the at least one other document is stored.

3 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the specification includes at least a part of a title of
4 the at least one other document.

5 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the other document.

6 8. The method of claim 7, wherein generating the other document comprises:
7 receiving information defining a template for the other document;
8 receiving information defining content for the other document; and
9 combining the template and content to form the other document.

2 9. The method of claim 8, wherein:

3 the information defining a template for the other document is received through a first
4 user interface; and

5 the information defining content for the other document is received through a second
6 user interface.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the second user interface has functionality
2 determined by information received through the first user interface.

1 11. A computer implemented method for automatically adding to a first document
2 information based on at least one other document, comprising:

3 storing in relation to the first document a specification for what other documents on
4 which to base information added to the first document;
5 searching for other documents that meet the specification; and
6 adding information to the first document in response to at least one of the other
7 documents found that meet the specification.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the searching for other documents that meet the
2 specification occurs in response to an action performed in relation to the second document.

3 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the action is the editing of the second document.

4 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the action is the creation of the second document.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the action is the moving of the second document
2 from a first location to a second location.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein the searching for other documents that meet the
2 specification occurs in response to an action performed in relation to the first document.

1 17. A computer implemented method for automatically generating a document with an
2 index to a plurality of data pieces within that document, comprising:

3 receiving a plurality of data pieces to include in the document;
4 for each of the plurality of data pieces, automatically generating an index entry;

5 automatically generating the index from the generated index entries; and
6 automatically combining index and the data pieces to generate the document.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein generating the document further comprises:
2 receiving information defining a template for the document; and
3 combining the template and the data pieces to form the document.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein:
2 the information defining a template for the document is received through a first user
3 interface; and
4 the data pieces for the document are received through a second user interface.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the second user interface has functionality
determined by information received through the first user interface.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the template defines information to be received to
form the data pieces.

1 22. The method of claim 17, wherein each index entry is a link to a location within the
document of the data piece for which the index entry was generated.

2 23. The method of claim 17, wherein each index entry is a piece of information based on
the data piece for which the index entry was generated.

1 24. A computer implemented method for automatically updating a first document with
2 information based on a second document, comprising:
3 storing in relation to the first document a specification defining what other documents
4 on which to base information added to the first document, the second
5 document meeting the specification;
6 searching for documents having a specification which the second document meets;
7 and

8 in response to finding the first document having a specification which the second
9 document meets, adding information to the first document based on the
10 second document.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the specification includes a location in a file
2 structure where the second document is stored.

1 26. The method of claim 24, further comprising generating the second document.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein generating the second comprises:
2 receiving information defining a template for the second document;
3 receiving information defining content for the second document; and
4 combining the template and content to form the second document.

1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein:
2 the information defining a template for the second document is received through a
3 first user interface; and
4 the information defining content for the second document is received through a
5 second user interface.

1 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the second user interface has functionality
2 determined by information received through the first user interface.

1 30. The method of claim 24, wherein the searching for documents having a specification
2 which the second document meets occurs in response to the creation of the second document.

1 31. The method of claim 24, wherein the searching for documents having a specification
2 which the second document meets occurs in response to the moving of the second document
3 from a first location to a second location.

1 32. The method of claim 24, wherein the searching for documents having a specification
2 which the second document meets occurs in response to the modification of the second
3 document.

1 33. The method of claim 24, wherein the searching for documents having a specification
2 which the second document meets occurs in response to the generation of the first document
3 from a first document template file and a first document content file.

1 34. A system for automatically updating a first document with information based on a
2 second document, comprising:

3 a template module for storing in relation to the first document a specification of
4 characteristics defining what other documents on which to base information
5 added to the first document, the second document meeting the specification;
6 a file structure module connected to the template module for storing characteristics of
7 documents; and
8 a document module connected to the file structure module for searching the file
9 structure module for documents having a specification of characteristics
10 defining other documents which the second document meets and in response
11 to finding the first document, adding information based on the second
12 document to the first document.